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must not be blindly followed paragraph by paragraph and page by page. Its proper function is *suggestive*, and, if so used, it will prove of great value in the botanical laboratory.

We cannot omit commending the form which the publishers have given the book. The type, printing, paper and binding are excellent, the flexible covers being especially commendable.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

TORREY'S BIRDS IN THE BUSH.¹—This is a dangerous little book. Young naturalists who have chosen paths that are not those of song and color should avoid it, lest they also should, by its winsome sweetness, be charmed to become ornithologists. Birds appeal to other faculties beside those of the intellect. The musician, the poet, the painter, all find inspiration in the *oscines*. Perhaps this is the reason there is so much twaddle written about birds. Since there is an audience writers devoid of the artistic, poetical, or musical faculties pen a series of quasi-scientific meanderings, and send it forth as a bird-book. But Mr. Torrey loves bird-song and bird-beauty and tells his love in language remarkable for force and picturesqueness. The eleven chapters teem with the result of years of life among the birds, and the author has a quaint way of comparing bird-life and bird-ways with our own life and ways, without allowing the reader to forget that it is only a bird he is talking about. No heavier blow has been dealt the sparrow-hater than that given in the first chapter of this book. Though by no means a sparrow-lover, Mr. Torrey confesses that, in the space of the last seven or eight years, he has watched upon Boston Garden and Common some thousands of specimens, representing not far from seventy species. The author owns to the true aboriginal temperament—he loves to be out of doors, but hates out-of-door employment; this is the stuff ornithologists should be made of, plus eyes.

LOUIS AGASSIZ; HIS LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE.²—The story of Agassiz's life, as here told, is an exceedingly attractive one, and we wish that a cheap edition of it could be published for the benefit of the youth of our country. The materials have been put together with much literary skill and judgment, the letters forming the larger part of the materials for the biography. To the American student who knew Agassiz, the first volume, relating to his boyhood, his youth at the universities, his early manhood as a collector and investigator, his life as a professor at Neuchâtel, his correspondence with Humboldt, his nine summers spent in Alpine exploration—this volume will seem like a romance. To those who never saw this child of genius, the second volume, recounting his successful life in America, the land of his adoption, will be full of interest.

¹ *Birds in the Bush.* By BRADFORD TORREY. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

² *Louis Agassiz—His Life and Correspondence.* Edited by ELIZABETH CARY AGASSIZ. Two volumes. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1885. 12mo. \$4.